

Message Text

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JUSE-00 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SY-10 TRSE-00 USIA-15 NSC-10

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TO AMEMBASSY COLOMBO PRIORITY

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SNAR

SUBJECT: VISIT OF COLOMBO PLAN DRUG ABUSE ADVISER

REF: A) COLOMBO 2135 B) STATE 138034

1. WE ARE GLAD DRUG ABUSE ADVISER AT LONG LAST HAS
ENTERED ON DUTY AND IS PREPARING TO CARRY OUT MANDATE OF
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COLOMBO PLAN MINISTERS. (REF B PARAGRAPH 2). BASED ON

ADVICE FROM MANILA (MANILA 7778), WE HAD ASSUMED PIO ABARRO WOULD BE TRAVELING AS MATTER OF FIRST PRIORITY TO COLOMBO PLAN COUNTRIES IN ASIA PRINCIPALLY TO GATHER INFORMATION FOR HIS REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE NEXT COLOMBO PLAN MEETING NOW SCHEDULED FOR NOVEMBER 27-DECEMBER 6, 1973. WITHOUT BEING AWARE OF PIO ABARRO'S RATIONALE FOR VISITING FIRST GENEVA, PARIS, WASHINGTON, AND LOS ANGELES, WE WOULD HAVE THOUGHT A BETTER APPROACH MIGHT HAVE BEEN VISITS AND CONSULTATIONS FIRST IN THE REGIONAL COUNTRIES FOLLOWED BY CONSULTATIONS WITH NON-REGIONAL MEMBERS AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS. IN OUR VIEW, THE BEST WAY TO REVIEW DRUG ABUSE PROGRAMS BEING CONDUCTED IN THE COLOMBO PLAN REGION BY THE COUNTRIES INVOLVED WITH OR WITHOUT BILATERAL OR MULTILATERAL ASSISTANCE WOULD BE TO VISIT THE REGIONAL COUNTRIES, EXAMINE ONGOING DRUG ABUSE CONTROL PROJECTS AND NEEDS AND PROSPECTS FOR FURTHER ACTIVITY, AND CONSULT WITH BOTH NATIONAL AUTHORITIES AND AID PERSONNEL. THAT WOULD SURELY BE THE BEST WAY TO SIZE UP US AID PROGRAMS IN THE FIELD OF DRUG ABUSE IN THE REGION.

2. IF DESPITE THESE CONSIDERATIONS PIO ABARRO ADHERES TO HIS PLAN TO HAVE CONSULTATIONS IN EUROPE AND THE UNITED STATES BEFORE VISITING ASIAN COUNTRIES, WE SHALL OF COURSE MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO COOPERATE WITH HIM AND WILL ARRANGE APPROPRIATE APPOINTMENTS IN WASHINGTON. IN VIEW OF THE EMPHASIS IN HIS MANDATE UPON THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF DRUG ABUSE, WE WOULD SUGGEST CONSULTATIONS HERE MAINLY WITH US AGENCIES RESPONSIBLE FOR DEVELOPING PROGRAMS OF DRUG ABUSE EDUCATION, PREVENTION, AND TREATMENT (I.E., THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF MENTAL HEALTH, THE OFFICE OF EDUCATION AND THE SPECIAL ACTION OFFICE FOR DRUG ABUSE PREVENTION) AND PROGRAMS OF NARCOTIC CROP SUBSTITUTION (THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE). STATE, AID, AND DEA OFFICIALS WILL ALSO BE AVAILABLE TO MEET WITH HIM.

3. IT WOULD ASSIST THE DEPARTMENT IN ARRANGING HIS PROGRAM IN WASHINGTON IF THE EMBASSY COULD EXPLORE PROMPTLY WITH PIO ABARRO HIS PLANS DURING THE NEXT THREE MONTH LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AND HIS RATIONALE FOR VISITS FIRST TO GENEVA AND WASHINGTON. WHILE MAKING IT CLEAR THAT IT IS NOT OUR INTENTION TO SUBSTITUTE OUR JUDGMENT FOR HIS AS TO THE BEST WAY TO TACKLE HIS ASSIGNMENT, THE EMBASSY SHOULD TAKE THE OPPORTUNITY TO EXPRESS THE VIEWS SET FORTH IN PARAGRAPH 1 ABOVE AND TO OBTAIN PIO ABARRO'S REACTIONS. IT WOULD ALSO BE HELPFUL IF HE COULD CONFIRM HIS AGREEMENT WITH THE KIND OF CONSULTATIONS ENVISAGED

IN PARAGRAPH 2 ABOVE AND COULD INDICATE ANY DIFFERENT
OR ADDITIONAL APPOINTMENTS HE MAY DESIRE. DEPARTMENT
WILL ALSO BE GLAD TO ASSIST IF HE SO REQUESTS IN
ARRANGING VISIT TO ADDICTION TREATMENT CENTER IN
WASHINGTON AREA AS WELL AS DRUG FREE THERAPEUTIC
COMMUNITY IN LOS ANGELES AREA. ROGERS

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